

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings, of claims in this application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) A method of supplying a replacement denture to a denture wearer upon the loss of an original denture, without requiring the assistance of the denture wearer to fit the replacement denture, the method comprising the steps of:

forming a mold by depositing a material in surrounding relationship to the original denture before the material takes a substantially permanent set;

allowing the material to take on a substantially permanent set;

removing the original denture from the mold;

storing the mold with the mold retaining its substantially permanent set configuration; and

introducing initially fluent denture material into the mold and permitting the denture material to solidify within the mold when a replacement denture is subsequently needed.

2. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein the mold is formed within a container in which the mold is storable to allow subsequent fabrication of the replacement denture.

3. (Withdrawn) A method of providing a substitute denture to a patient upon the loss of an original denture, so that the substitute denture has a shape corresponding to a shape of the original denture so that a denture wearer can use the substitute denture in comfort, the method comprising the steps of:

constructing a mold having a shape corresponding to the shape of the original denture prior to the loss of the original denture;

the mold being constructed by forming a first mold section conforming to only a tissue side of the original denture, the first mold section being formed of a material having sufficiently permanent dimensional stability so that the first mold section will

retain its shape for a period of time at least equal to an anticipated life of the original denture:

forming a second mold section conforming to all exterior surfaces of the original denture other than the tissue side or the denture; and

storing the mold and using the mold to form the substitute denture upon loss of the original denture.

4. (Withdrawn) A method of fabricating a denture comprising the steps of:
constructing a mold with a mold cavity for forming the denture;
depositing a first material into a portion of the mold cavity to form denture teeth;
forming a first passage in the mold, the first passage entering the mold cavity at a location spaced from the portion of the mold cavity in which first material is deposited to form denture teeth; and

injecting a second material through the first passage into the mold cavity to form a gum portion of the denture so that the mold cavity is filled with the first and second materials; and

bonding the first and second materials to form the denture.

5. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 4 wherein the first material is allowed to solidify to form a first subcomponent, a portion of the first subcomponent having the shape of exposed portions of teeth in the denture fabricated in the mold, wherein the first subcomponent is removed from the mold and trimmed to remove material that would extend beyond a gum line at an edge of the denture teeth, and wherein the first subcomponent is reinserted into the mold after trimming and before the second material is injected into the mold cavity.

6. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 4 wherein first and second passages are drilled into the mold, the second material being injected into the first passage into the mold cavity, with excess portions of the second material flowing from the mold cavity into the second passage.

7. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 6 wherein a third passage is drilled into the cavity, the second and third passages forming passages for receiving excess portions of the second material to insure that the mold cavity is filled.

8. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 7 wherein the first passage is drilled through a central section of the mold and the second and third passages are drilled through flanking sections of the mold on opposite sides of the central section so that the mold cavity is completely filled.

9. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 4 wherein the denture is trimmed along a juncture between the first passage and the mold cavity to remove the denture from the mold.

10-14 (Canceled)

15. (Withdrawn) A method of duplicating a denture comprising the steps of:
pressing a deformable material into contiguous relationship with the tissue side of a denture so that the deformable material substantially covers the tissue side;

positioning a flask lid on an exterior surface of the deformable material so that the deformable material is positioned between the denture and the flask lid;

mounting the flask lid, with the deformable material and the denture affixed thereto on a flask base;

introducing a curable material into the flask base so that the curable material fills open portions of the flask and forms an impression of the remaining portions of the denture including teeth, lingual flange, and other exposed gum portions of the denture;

curing the curable material to form a solid mold base;

removing the deformable material from the tissue side of the denture;

introducing a curable material into the volume vacated by the deformable material and curing the curable material to form a tissue side denture mold, matable with the mold base;

removing the denture leaving a mold cavity formed between the tissue side denture mold and the solid mold base;

forming a duplicate denture by filling the mold cavity with material suitable for forming a denture.

16. (Withdrawn) A method of duplicating a denture comprising the steps of:

fabricating a tissue side mold;

fabricating an exterior side mold, with a parting surface between the tissue side mold and the exterior side mold being located to substantially include an edge separating

a denture tissue side from a denture exterior side, the tissue side mold and the exterior side mold forming a mold cavity; and

introducing materials suitable for forming a duplicate denture into the mold cavity.

17. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16 wherein the exterior side mold is fabricated by introducing a curable material into a denture flask base, after positioning the denture in the denture flask base with the denture tissue side being covered to block the curable material.

18. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 17 wherein the tissue side mold blocks the curable material from being deposited on the denture tissue side.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 17 wherein a temporary filler material blocks the curable material from being deposited on the denture tissue side, the filler material subsequently being removed for formation of the tissue side mold.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16 wherein the tissue side mold is fabricated before fabrication of the exterior side mold.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16 wherein the exterior side mold is fabricated before fabrication of the exterior side mold.

22. (Currently Amended) A mold for fabricating a duplicate for an original denture, the mold including:

a flask;

a first flexible mold section;

a second flexible mold section located within the flask, the first and second flexible mold sections forming at least part of a denture mold cavity in which the duplicate of the original denture is molded;

wherein, the first and second flexible mold sections include sloping surfaces, each formed upon solidification of an initially fluent material, extending away from the mold cavity, the sloping surfaces being conformable to each other and mutually registerable and comprising means for aligning the first and second flexible mold sections to form the denture mold cavity.

23. (Original) The mold of claim 22 including a flask in which the first and second mold sections are positioned.

24. (Original) The mold of claim 23 wherein the second mold section comprises a mold base located in a flask base, the first mold section being removable from the flask to expose the mold cavity.

25. (Original) The mold of claim 22 wherein the first mold section comprises a tissue side mold section and the second mold section comprises an exterior side mold section forming the exterior contour of denture teeth and the denture gum section.

26. (Original) The mold of claim 22 wherein the first and second sloping surfaces comprise means for laterally aligning the first and second flexible mold sections without subjecting the first and second mold sections to loads which deform the mold cavity.

27. (Withdrawn) A method of fabricating a mold for use in forming a duplicate denture comprising the steps of forming a first mold portion and a second mold portion, the first and second mold portions forming at least parts of a mold cavity in which the duplicate denture can be formed, the method being characterized in that at least one of the mold portions is formed by pouring a fluid material through an exterior surface of a mold flask and allowing the fluid material to solidify to form the latter mold portion, the mold flask being positioned such that air bubbles in the latter mold portion, when solidified, are formed at locations spaced from the mold cavity.

28 (Currently Amended) A mold for fabricating a substitute denture having the same external shape as an original denture, the mold comprising:

- a first mold section;

- a second mold section;

- a denture mold cavity, conforming to the external shape of the original denture and defined at least in part by the first and second mold sections formed around the original denture, the first and second mold sections having surfaces, each formed upon solidification of an initially fluent material, extending away from the denture mold cavity, the molded surfaces on the first and second sections being conformable so as to be matable when the first and second mold sections are positioned together to form the denture cavity, the first and second mold sections being formed so that the original denture can be removed from the denture mold cavity;

- a mold flask including a first flask section matable with a second flask section;

the mold being characterized in that the first mold section is located within the first flask section and the second mold section is in engagement with the second flask section; ;

wherein ~~a first flask~~ an exterior surface on the first flask section includes an opening through which fluent material can be injected, when the first flask section is mated to the second flask section, to solidify in the first flask section; to form a flexible portion of the mold cavity comprising part of the first mold section;

and wherein, the flask comprises a container for storing the first and second mold sections without applying loads to the first and second mold sections so that the mold remains dimensionally stable so that and the mold can be stored in the mold flask for use in fabricating the substitute denture upon loss of, or damage to the original denture, ~~the flask comprising a container for storing the first and second mold sections.~~

29. (Currently Amended) The mold of claim 28 wherein the second flask section includes a second opening in a second exterior flask surface through which fluent material can be injected to solidify in the second flask section to form the second mold section.

30. (Currently Amended) The mold of claim 28 wherein voids in the first and second mold sections are concentrated adjacent exterior flask surfaces through which fluent material can be injected and away from the denture mold cavity so that the mold cavity is defined by relatively smoother surface contours.

31. (Previously Presented) The mold of claim 28 wherein the first mold section comprises an exterior side mold section and the second mold section comprises a tissue side mold section having a contour conforming to a tissue side of a denture to be fabricated in the mold cavity.

32. (Previously Presented) The mold of claim 28 wherein the first flask section comprises a base and the second flask section comprises a cover attachable to the base, the volume of the base being sufficient to house the first and second mold sections and the denture mold cavity.

33. (Previously Presented) The mold of claim 28 wherein both the first and second mold sections comprise flexible mold sections.

34. (Original) The mold of claim 28 wherein the first and second mold sections include first and second sloping surfaces extending away from the mold cavity, so that opposing first and second sloping surfaces fit together in mutual registration to align the first and second mold sections to form the denture mold cavity.

35. (Original) The mold of claim 34 wherein the first and second sloping surfaces comprise means for laterally aligning first and second flexible mold sections without subjecting the first and second mold sections to loads which deform the mold cavity.

36. (Currently Amended) A kit for fabricating a mold for using in duplicating an original denture, the kit including:

- a flask comprising a base and a cover

- the kit being characterized by an opening in at least one of the base or the cover through which a fluent material can be poured when the base and cover are mated;

- a ~~solid~~ material conformable to one surface on a portion of an original denture ~~and comprising a~~ to form a solid temporary filler for supporting the original denture in the flask; and

- a fluent material solidifiable after being poured into the flask through the opening and comprising means for forming a flexible portion of a mold cavity conforming to a portion of the original denture located in the flask

37. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 36 wherein the solid material comprises a malleable material removable from the flask after the fluent material solidifies to form a first mold section, and the other of the base and cover also includes an opening though which fluent material can be poured to form a second mold section in the space vacated by removable of the malleable material.